GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2002
MANUAL SCAVENGING
BRAHMANAND MANDAL;M. JAGANNATH;VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to put an end to the practice of manual scavenging;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard;

(c) the guidelines sent to the State Government in the matter ;and

(d) the achievements made so far in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of India implements the National Scheme of Liberationand Rehabilitation of Scavengers and their dependents (NSLRS) for training andrehabilitation of scavengers in alternative and dignified occupations. The Ministryof Urban Development implements Low Cost Sanitation scheme for conversion ofthe dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines. In order to energies and expedite the pace of NSLRS this Ministry has implemented concept of Sanitary Martsduring the year 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scavengers in groups. A central legislation `The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of DryLatrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993` has been enacted to put an end to the practice of manual scavenging which is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Developmentand Poverty Alleviation. Till now 17 States and all UTs have adopted the Act. This Ministry is constantly pursuing with the State Governments for preparationof action plan to rehabilitate the scavengers within a time frame. Till now, Rs.700.97 crores has been released to States for effective implementation of the Scheme. Out of 6,76,009 identified scavengers 4,08,644, and 1,56,488 scavengers have been rehabilitated and trained respectively from 1991-92 to 2001-02 under NSLRS. 37,532 scavengers have been liberated under Low Cost Sanitation scheme.